

PIONEER BLOCK 11

CELL BLOCK CHARDONNAY

Affectionately named after the owners Sandra and Colin MacKay. Colin a former detective in the New Zealand Police Force sadly passed away during the 2020 vintage after proudly seeing their grapes harvested.

BLOCK: 11

REGION:

Lower Wairau Valley.

TERROIR:

Soils: Even, fertile, deep, free-draining silt loams on sand.

Topography: Flat, even land.

Climate: Slightly cooler than further up the Wairau Valley with a long, slow ripening period.

REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTRIBUTION TO UNIQUENESS OF FLAVOURS:

This is a slightly cooler area, which contributes to the wine's elegance. The soil from the lower Wairau Valley is very nutrient rich, which is reflected in the mineral character of the wine.

VITICULTURE:

Clone 15 and Burgundian Clone 95 grapes were sourced from a vineyard in the lower Wairau area. The fruit was carefully monitored during ripening and hand harvested at maximum flavour maturity and physiological ripeness.

WINEMAKING:

The fruit was lightly whole bunch pressed, eliminating any skin phenolics. After settling, the juice was inoculated with a selected yeast strain and fermentation was carried out in a mixture of large format cuvees and French oak barriques (100 per cent new). The wine then went through malolactic fermentation, followed by ten months ageing on yeast lees with regular stirring. Once completed the best barrels were selected for this blend and it was lightly fined, stabilised and prepared for bottling.

COLOUR:

Pale straw.

AROMA:

White peach and citrus combine with roasted almonds and spice.

PALATE:

Precise and structural with layers of white stone fruits and integrated oak. A rich rounded mouthfeel is enhanced by warm spice notes on the lingering finish.

AGEING:

Drinking well now and will continue to evolve and improve over the next five years.

WINE ANALYSIS:

Alcohol 13% v/v, Residual sugar 2.1g/L
Acidity 5.9g/litre, pH 3.36

FOOD MATCH:

Mushroom risotto topped with ricotta.



SENIOR WINEMAKER
Stewart Maclellan

SENIOR WINEMAKER
Hamish Clark

CONTACT

Neal & Judy Ibbotson, Saint Clair Family Estate
Cnr Rapaura and Selmes Roads, Marlborough, New Zealand
PO Box 920, Blenheim, New Zealand
Freephone (NZ Only) 0800 282 111 Phone +64 (0)3 578 8695 Fax +64 (0)3 578 8696
Email: wine@saintclair.co.nz www.saintclair.co.nz